

SNOTEL

| Issue Area | Automated Snow/Climate Data Acquisition for Analysis of Local and Watershed Water Supplies |
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| What's the Challenge? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing high elevation snowpack information for streamflow forecasting, modeling and conservation planning assistance • Assessing soil moisture balance for drought monitoring, mitigation, and crop productivity forecasting • Providing quality near real-time data to the National Weather Service for flood forecasting • Providing quality near real-time data for climate monitoring • Providing climate information for Global Climate Change monitoring • Lack of integrated snowpack information in the northern plains and eastern United States |
| What We Are Doing? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with NRCS, cooperators and partners to determine needs and to provide technical assistance • Bringing SNOTEL data up to certified quality • Infusing SNOTEL with new technology • Program-wide commitment to finalize all Network Standards and Specifications • Improving and expanding coverage of NRCS's meteor burst communications capability • Operating 650 remote SNOTEL sites in the western United States and Alaska • Submitted FY2000 budget initiative for a National Snow Data Management Network |
| Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with customers and partners to better meet their needs • Installing new cooperator funded sites • Developing new snow water equivalent sensors to monitor snowpack • Testing all hardware and software for Year 2000 compliance • Data quality improvement under cooperative agreements • Looking at requirements for the next generation SNOTEL remote site |
| What's Left? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance to states upon request • Complete revision of program standards and specifications • Complete developmental work on new SWE sensor and begin implementation process • Provide assistance to states upon request • Provide new climate analysis and water supply forecasting (will require additional funding, FTE's, and about 200 additional SNOTEL remote sites) • Implement the National Snow Data Management Network |